



# Employee News

*News and Information for Muscatatuck SDC and Madison State Hospital Employees during the transition to community-based services.*

## Steve Cook Named DDARS Director

***Cook replaces Marilyn Schultz, recently appointed to lead State Budget Agency***

Steve Cook has been named director for FSSA's Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services. Cook has been director of DDARS' bureau of developmental disabilities since January 2001.

"I am pleased Steve has accepted the challenge to lead the staff of Indiana's Family and Social Services DARS division," said John Hamilton, FSSA secretary. "Steve's current service to Hoosiers as bureau director for developmental disabilities made him an ideal candidate and the best choice to lead his fellow peers in providing services to those Hoosiers most in need of our assistance."

"Through my work as developmental disabilities director, I feel my staff and I have worked hard to meet the needs of our fellow Hoosiers," said Cook. "I'm excited for the challenge and pleased that my work with FSSA will continue." Before coming to FSSA, Cook most recently worked for Res Care Inc. and for 14 years for St. Vincent New Hope, both orga-

nizations that provide services to the disabled in community-based and institutional settings.

Cook received his master's degree in education from Butler University and his bachelor's degree in science in public and environmental affairs from Indiana University. He has professional certifications in Health Facility Administrator-Comprehensive and Indiana School Psychologist I. He is past director of the Brain Injury Association of Indiana Board of Directors.

DDARS provides the aging and people with disabilities a wide variety of services, including vocational training and rehabilitative assistance. FSSA's other three divisions are Mental Health and Addiction, Family and Children Services and the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning.

### **HANDY NUMBERS AND WEB SITES:**

#### **MSDC/MSH Info Hotline:**

1-800-903-9822

[www.IN.gov/fssa/transition](http://www.IN.gov/fssa/transition)

Maintained by FSSA to answer your questions.

#### **Indiana Department of Workforce Development:**

1-888-WORKONE (967-5663)

[www.IN.gov/dwd](http://www.IN.gov/dwd)

Available to assist with job search concerns. Web site resources include "Career Planing and Training" and "Job Fair Listings."

#### **Customer Self Service System for Job Seekers:**

<https://cs3.dwd.state.in.us/regw/default.asp>

Free service links you to job opportunities across Indiana and neighboring states. Your information is cross-referenced with thousands of job openings. Operated by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

#### **America's Job Bank:**

[www.ajb.dni.us](http://www.ajb.dni.us)

Nation's largest pool of active job opportunities. Post your resume to employers across the country. Operated by the US Department of Labor and the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

#### **Ivy Tech State College:**

1-888-IVY-LINE (489-5463)

[www.ivytec.in.us](http://www.ivytec.in.us)

Indiana's third largest public higher education system, with 23 campuses statewide.

### **MEETING INFORMATION**

The time and location of the next meeting of the **Southeast Regional Project Team** will be announced in a future edition.

# Self-Advocates of Indiana

## *Dedicated to Community Involvement*

Self-Advocates of Indiana (SAI), formed in 1990 with a grant from the Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities, is a statewide organization of people with developmental disabilities. For the last twelve years, SAI has been bringing together individuals who envision a better way of life for the developmentally disabled.

Darcus Nims, founder and current vice-president of SAI, remembers, "We hadn't known there were other people like us who wanted more for themselves. It's twelve years later and we're still going strong."

Betty Williams, president of SAI, states, "We want people to know we have abilities and talents to offer. We don't want to be considered special. We want to be equal. We have the laws in place; now what we need is a change in attitude."

Self-Advocates of Indiana works to support people with developmental disabilities and



*Betty Williams (left) and Darcus Nims*

their families as they move out of institutions. "They were scared. They were going to lose the only home some of them had ever known. But we talked to them about living in the community and they came to count on us," recalls Darcus.

For further information about Self-Advocates of Indiana, please call Betty at (765) 935-4319, or Darcus at (317) 786-1041.

## Parent of Former NCSDC Resident Now Consultant for Waiver Information Network (WIN)

Nanette Whightsel's daughter, Suzette, lived at New Castle State Developmental Center (NCSDC) for twenty-one years. When the announcement was made that NCSDC would close, she had many of the fears and concerns that now face families whose loved ones are moving from MSDC.

Though skeptical, Nanette worked with the state, providers, and case managers to develop a program in the community that would meet Suzette's specific needs.

"The key difference in successfully moving

Suzette from NCSDC was the availability of the Medicaid Waiver - a funding source that allowed me to create a program that would work for Suzette, rather than trying to place Suzette into a specific, existing program," Nanette said.

"I was very concerned when I learned Suzette would have to leave NCSDC. Today, I am very happy with the move; and Suzette is happier. She lives in her own home, with a room mate, and twenty-four hour awake staff. She is also healthier. Since she moved from NCSDC, she

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# Employee Resource Center

Each month this space will highlight community, government, and non-profit resources available in the community.

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens the door to the federal financial aid process. It is the single most necessary component for receiving any financial assistance toward a college education. Completing the FAFSA on the Web is the most efficient way to apply, cutting the wait time in half for receiving the Student Aid Report (SAR), or the government's calculation of how much you are required to submit toward your own schooling. Colleges use the SAR's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) number to determine if an applicant will receive federal financial aid. If you qualify, the school prepares a financial aid package. Financial need is the difference between your school's cost of attendance (including living expenses), as calculated by your school, and your EFC. Complete the FAFSA on the Web at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
- For health careers and medical jobs, register at [www.HEALTHeCAREERS.com](http://www.HEALTHeCAREERS.com), where users can create, post and send their résumé, receive e-mail alerts about new jobs, and more. Employers posting jobs to your discipline can view your posted résumé and registered contact

information. The site represents a partnership between healthcare associations, colleges, societies, and academies toward career development and recruitment. You can search their job bank by whichever discipline you have expertise in, including social work.

- An online resource for Human Service Jobs, Social Service Jobs, Non-Profit Jobs, and Jobs in Corrections is [www.HSCareers.com](http://www.HSCareers.com), the Human Services Career Network. The site offers recruitment tools for agencies, interactive networking, information, and employment opportunities for individuals seeking a career in the field. Employers can profile their agencies, post unlimited employment opportunities, and search the resume database for prospective employees. Job Seekers can post their Career Profile resume and search for available employment opportunities. HSCareers.com also offers a training and conference calendar, links to educational and professional resources, Human Service news and trends that focuses on "best practices," legislative updates, and stories from across the country. In addition, HSCareers.com highlights selected agencies on a weekly basis and provides a professional newsletter each month.

## ***Parent of Former Resident Now Consultant***

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has received a Vagus Nerve Implant for seizure control. This has eliminated 80% of her seizure activity. It was never suggested as an option when she lived in the institution." Nanette said.

Now Nanette is ready to share her knowledge and experience of the Medicaid Waiver Program, and what it can do to support individuals with developmental disabilities in the community, as a consultant for the Waiver Information Network (WIN). WIN -- a collaborative effort of The Arc of Indiana, Indiana Parent Information Network, and Indiana

Institute on Disability and Community - is funded by a grant from the Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities. These organizations are developing a Medicaid Waiver training program, and will share the information at forums throughout the state in late October through December, 2002.

Families with loved ones at MSDC are encouraged to contact Nanette for information.

She can be reached at: (317)977-2375 or 1-800-382-9100; or by e-mail at: [nwhighstel@arcind.org](mailto:nwhighstel@arcind.org).

## Contact Us!

FSSA maintains a web site, a toll-free phone number, and this newsletter to keep MSDC and MSH employees fully informed.

Anyone who would like to receive this newsletter can call the number listed, leave their address, and be added to our mailing list.

The web site features questions discussed at family and employee meetings, the final report from the Governor's Council on State Operated Care Facilities, updates on the *Olmstead* process, articles, and more.

You can visit the web site at:  
[www.IN.gov/fssa/transition](http://www.IN.gov/fssa/transition)

If you have questions, comments or concerns, or want to request copies of items on the web site, write to:

**Secretary, FSSA  
402 W. Washington St.,  
Room W461  
Indianapolis, IN  
46207-7088  
Attn: MSDC/MSH**

or email:

[OfficeOfTheSecretary@fssa.state.in.us](mailto:OfficeOfTheSecretary@fssa.state.in.us)

or call toll-free, 24 hours a day:

**1-800-903-9822**

## Family and Employee News Available On-Line

Both the *Family News* and *Employee News* will now be posted on-line each month. FSSA's Muscatatuck/Madison Transition Process web site has added the newsletters as a feature.

The web page can be viewed at:

[www.IN.gov/fssa/transition](http://www.IN.gov/fssa/transition)

## MSDC Training Fund Update

As of June 24, 2002 , 336 employees have taken advantage of the special training funds available.

FSSA has processed payments of \$260,613.37 to various universities, colleges. training institutions and secondary learning institutions on behalf of these employees.

### **August 18th employees can be enrolled in the following ongrounds classes:**

AVAC (Heating and Air Conditioning)  
Medical Coding  
Medical Transcription (2 way classes to be held in North Vernon)  
A+ computer repair  
Net + computer training

### **Educational successes so far:**

62 employees enrolled in A+ certification classes  
17 employees completed Basic Electricity 1 class  
36 passed Phiebotomy  
69 completed Medical Terminology  
8 finished conversational Spanish